



Southern African Traditional Governance Structures within Modern Democratic Contexts

Fernando Ondoña¹

¹ National University of Equatorial Guinea (UNGE)

Published: 22 January 2010 | **Received:** 22 September 2009 | **Accepted:** 07 December 2009

Correspondence: fondoa@hotmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18911085](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18911085)

Author notes

Fernando Ondoña is affiliated with National University of Equatorial Guinea (UNGE) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Southern African traditional governance structures have coexisted with modern democratic contexts in various countries such as Equatorial Guinea. The study employs a qualitative approach to analyse interviews with traditional leaders and government officials, as well as archival research examining official documents and policy frameworks related to traditional governance in Equatorial Guinea. A key finding is the significant role played by traditional chiefs in mediating disputes between communities and the state, often serving as mediators and arbitrators that complement formal legal systems. This study highlights the importance of understanding both historical and contemporary influences on governance structures to foster effective integration of traditional practices into modern democratic frameworks. Policy recommendations include recognising and valuing traditional leadership roles in official capacity-building programmes, which can enhance community cohesion and support for democratic institutions.

Keywords: *African Geography, Traditional Institutions, Anthropology, Ethnography, Comparative Method, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Social Theory*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge